WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Founded December 17, 1857 NOVEMBER 1997

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

KAREN'S COLUMN

OPENING SOON AT BRIARWOOD: HISTORY LANE EXHIBIT

Photo by Karen O'Neal

Opening soon at Briarwood: History Lane! The Historical Society will again be collaborating with the Ypsilanti Historical Society this holiday season to present an exhibit in a setting of store fronts.

The stores bear the names of businesses that would have been easily recognized in the 1890s but are forgotten today.

Opening on Saturday, November 22 and running until December 28th in the Sears wing, WCHS will have the opportunity to place on view a number of our artifacts in this unique display.

Dishes, glassware and household items originally belonging to the Bach family can be seen. The Bach name is familiar to us today because of Bach School and the Anna Botsford Bach Home on Liberty Street.

Orange Risdon's high chair, the rungs well worn by the child who would grow up to survey US 12, the main road from Detroit to Chicago, is another artifact of interest. Risdon would later found the city of Saline.

When Lois Burnett married Edward D. Hiscock on December 20,1883, she probably never imagined that her deep purple wedding outfit, along with a picture of her wearing the dress, would be preserved for us to view 114 years later.

The Colburg Doll house, made by Lewis H. Hodges and donated to the Society, will also be featured. This large doll house was entirely handmade by Mr. Hodges.

It is very complete with tiny needlepoint rugs, chandeliers, curtains and a Christmas tree. He built the house and photographed it while he was writing a book on making miniatures.

Part of the space will be devoted to a Museum Shop where our tee shirts, coffee mugs, books, stationery items and the 1880 birdseye view map of Ann Arbor will be for sale.

We are very grateful to Briarwood for inviting us to participate in History Lane for a second year. You will definitely want to stop by as you do your holiday shopping. Better yet, sign up to volunteer a few hours to staff the exhibit. We would welcome your involvement!

History Lane will be open from Friday, November 21 (when Santa arrives) through Sunday, December 28.

Karen O'Neal, 665-2242

ANN ARBOR BOOK PUT ON HOLD, WCHS WILL OFFER 1896 *HEADLIGHT* REPRINTS AT HISTORY LANE

The committee worked diligently to have a book of Ann Arbor photographs ready for the holiday season but found they could not do a proper job in time so it is on hold for next year.

We will have reprints of *Headlight*, a historic magazine published in 1896 by the Michigan Central Railroad. The Ann Arbor edition is 44 pages filled with drawings and information about Ann Arbor a century ago.

Bob Creal loaned us his copy. We are having a 1,000 copies reproduced by Neil's Printing which does our newsletter. *The Ann Arbor News* is offering at History Lane a $15 coupon to anyone buying a three-month subscription. The coupon may be used to buy *Headlight*.

The Ypsilanti Historical Society will share the History Lane exhibit located next to the Sears lobby entrance. Come see the exhibits of historic artifacts and get your copy of *Headlight*.

MARIANNE BEHLER WILL TALK ABOUT PRESERVING PHOTOS NOVEMBER 16

"Preservation of Family Photographs, Documents and Memories" will be the topic of the Washtenaw County Historical Society meeting at 2 p.m. Sunday, November 16.

Marianne Behler will provide tips for organizing and preserving photos, memorabilia and negatives. She will discuss types of photo storage systems and the role of the family photo historian.

The meeting will be in the Walden Hills Events Building, 2114 Pauline Blvd., Ann Arbor, west of Stadium Blvd.

WCHS HAS 50% OF POINTS NEEDED FOR MEMORY BOOK

WCHS now has 10,128 Bill Knapp's Restaurant points, 50+% of the 20,000 needed for a memory book to record names of donors to our Museum on Main Street.

Anyone who eats at Knapp's may request a yellow points slip from the cashier each time. One point is given for each dollar spent. Please give or send to Alice Ziegler, 537 Riverview Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP TO HELP AT HISTORY LANE?

We still need volunteers to staff our exhibit. History Lane will be open 10 a.m.-9 p.m. (It opens an hour later than stated last month.)

Please fill out the enclosed form or call Pauline Walters, 663-2379, for information and to volunteer. Volunteers will be notified by mail about their assignments. A dozen sign up sheets have been returned so far.

HOW TO JOIN

Send name, address and phone number with check or money order payable to WCHS Membership, c/o Patty Creal, Treasurer, P.O. Box 3336, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336.

Annual dues are individual, $15; couple/family, $25; student or senior (60+), $10; senior couple, $19; business/association, $50; patron, $100. Information: 662-9092.

BY RIGHTS, IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN TOLEDO, MICHIGAN

"In all reality, if you look at the facts it should be Toledo, Michigan, not Ohio, by the mere fact of experience and tradition."

So said Fred Folger, a fourth generation Toledoan whose hobby is teaching local history. He addressed the WCHS October audience on the so-called Toledo War.

"In the early years Michigan law prevailed quite totally in that area. How did it happen to become Toledo, Ohio? I'll try to explain. It can be quite confusing and, at the time, it was pretty dramatic.

"The whole outcome was determined by two things--politics and money. Now, what else is new?

"I want to say something about several of the main people I will be referring to--first, your governor, Stevens T. Mason, was acting governor of the Territory of Michigan. He had been secretary of the territory but when the territorial governor died the secretary became acting governor. He was 23 years old at the time and often called the 'boy governor.'

"Governor Mason became an ardent proponent of Toledo, Michigan. He wanted to make a strong case for the disputed Toledo strip. He certainly did his level best but he was up against politics.

"His antagonist was Robert Lucas, Governor of Ohio. Both of these gentlemen were strong Democrats who each admired President Andrew Jackson. In fact, Lucas chaired the first Democratic National Convention at Baltimore that nominated Jackson for president.

"Governor Lucas was a man of action. He was a native of what was then Virginia (now West Virginia) near Shepherdstown and his family came to Pike County, Ohio when he was a boy. In his early years he was a surveyor in Pike and Scioto Counties, down along the Ohio River.

"He was also a very difficult person at times. One of his biographical sketches said that as a young man he got a young lady of the neighborhood involved in a family way--the delicate way to put it--and, of course, her family wanted him arrested.

"Lucas vowed he would kill anyone who tried to serve any warrant upon him. The sheriff, knowing Lucas, quit. The sheriff position fell temporarily on another county officer. That person immediately resigned.

"After several resignations the exasperated county commissioners published a notice in the local paper that anyone who would volunteer to serve an arrest warrant upon one Robert Lucas may have the job of sheriff.

"You know that someone who has such a reputation also makes enemies. One of them immediately served the warrant and it was done quite peacefully.

"Lucas served in the War of 1812 and delivered some messages from the governor of Ohio to the commander at Detroit. He was involved in the march of the Ohio militia up the west side of Ohio to Michigan and over the Detroit River to Sandwich (now Windsor).

"Lucas kept a diary of all this and he was very upset with General Hull who would, of course, ultimately surrender Detroit without a shot being fired.

Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan

Stevens T. Mason, secretary and acting governor of Michigan Territory, 1830-35; first governor of state, 1835-40. Portrait ca. 1836 by Detroit painter, Alvin (or Allen) Smith.

"The British forces were down at Fort Malden at Amherstburg near the south end of the Detroit River. Lucas kept sounding off--Why doesn't he attack? Why is something not done? Why wait for them to attack us?

"Then one day he was called into Hull's quarters. General Hull asked Lucas if he would join a few others and volunteer to sneak into Amherstburg and try to capture Chief Tecumseh, a major ally of the British in the war.

"Lucas declined the honor. In his diary he said he would not accept such an assignment which could be so foolish as to actually result in him being taken prisoner or worse 'but maybe that's what the General intended,' he wrote.

"Lucas served in the Ohio legislature and as governor for a number of years. Then, President Martin Van Buren appointed him territorial governor of Iowa. Lucas moved his family to Iowa City and established his home there, known as Plum Grove.

That is one of Iowa's state historic sites, the home of their only territorial governor.

"In Iowa, Lucas soon found himself embroiled in a border dispute with Missouri. This time he was the territorial governor and Missouri was a state so Missouri ended up getting the territory they wanted.

"I might add that Friendly Grove was the name of Governor Lucas's home in southern Ohio. It's in a county we call Appalachia. It's the only building in the entire county to make the National Register of Historic Places.

"Another character in the Toledo War was Benjamin Franklin Stickney. He was a great nephew of Benjamin Franklin and had served as Indian Agent for the region.

""He was headquartered in the fort at Fort Wayne, Indiana for a number of years. He could speak many Indian languages.

"He was very eccentric in many ways. He had two daughters and two sons. He did allow his first daughter to be named after his wife, Mary, but because his second daughter was born in Fort Wayne, she was named Indiana.

"The two sons were named in order of their birth, 'One' and 'Two.' So, when I talk about 'Two Stickney' I'm talking about someone named 'T-w-o.' Apparently Two followed more in his father's footsteps--we don't hear anything about One being involved in the boundary dispute.

"When his service as Indian agent expired at Fort Wayne at the headwaters of the Maumee River, he saw his future down at the mouth of the river.

"He purchased some farm land and also some other land in a town trying to become a city. He was one of the early landholders in Port Lawrence, one of two villages later united to form Toledo.

"Because of a national recession, Port Lawrence was not growing very rapidly. He decided he was going to get an investor to get the town started. He went to New York state and met with people in various towns along the Erie Canal.

"Many of the early settlers of Toledo came from New York. We have people from Lockport, Syracuse, Auburn, all along the canal. Stickney met with an Edward Bissell who agreed to come out and start a town and get some business started.

"Their town was called Vistula after a city in Poland.

"A man from Detroit, named Lewis Godard, that they had interested in starting a business attended one of their meetings. His young son, Alonzo, was with him studying his geography book and said what about Vistula?

"B. F. Stickney was appointed justice of the peace for Port Lawrence Township, Monroe county in the disputed area where downtown Toledo is today.

"Michigan law prevailed. When people came to buy land in that township they went to the Monroe County land office. So, if you are doing research on early Lucas County land records, there are two old volumes, Lucas County from Wood County, definitely part of Ohio, and Lucas County from Monroe County. Early deeds for downtown Toledo for the most part fell under the jurisdiction of Monroe County.

"Now about this time in the 1830s Ohio had constructed two canal systems, following the example of the Erie Canal. Back then it seemed like canals were going to be the main mode of transportation in the future.

"You could move heavier cargo and more people greater distances on canals than by any other means. Back then the roads between communities were pretty miserable affairs and the early railroads were very primitive.

"The early railroads were mainly just between two towns or a few at most. Each railroad company tended to have its own gauge or width of track so one company's rolling stock or cars could not operate on another

company's track.

"So. if you were going to travel, that meant you were constantly getting off and taking another railroad or changing to a stage coach and/or back to another train.

"With a canal it was one long, lengthy trip without all that changing. Of course, I say lengthy because you traveled at four miles per hour.

"Ohio had built two canals, one from Cleveland to Portsmouth in eastern Ohio, connecting Lake Erie to the Ohio River and the other, the Miami Canal from Cincinnati to Dayton. Then Indiana, wanting an outlet on Lake Erie, wanted to get involved.

"So Indiana discussed this possibility with the State of Ohio because Ohio would have to dig the canal from the Indiana line to some point of navigation on the Maumee River.

"That's when the trouble began because once it became known that Ohio was going to get involved in this project, Stickney and others in Vistula and Port Lawrence thought, 'Wait a minute, if that canal falls short of the state line we're going to wither on the vine. Another town upriver will become a bustling center of commerce. We've got to get Ohio to bring that canal to our town.'

"B.F. Stickney was a leading proponent of Toledo. The proponents were able to get the governor of Ohio to pursue their cause.

"Now we should mention Two Stickney who inflicts the only physical injury of this whole affair. When they tried to arrest him he pulled a knife and stabbed a deputy sheriff of Monroe County on the left side.

"Two immediately went into exile because Governor Mason issued a warrant for his arrest and offered a $500 reward. Two appealed to Governor Lucas of Ohio. When Governor Mason's request was delivered to Governor Lucas, Lucas responded, "I cannot extradite this person to Michigan to stand trial for some alleged incident that occurred *in Ohio.*'

"The man who was stabbed recovered. In fact, he delivered the demand all the way to Columbus to Governor Lucas and guess who handed him the message to return to Governor Mason--Two Stickney!

"The area northwest of the Ohio River was known as the Northwest Territory and there was a question of how many states to create from it.

"Thomas Jefferson's idea was to divide it into ten states and give them classically inspired names. Happily for civil administrators and spelling bee contestants neither Jefferson's classically inspired names nor the arbitrary boundaries were adopted.

"If they had, both we in Ann Arbor and Toledo would have found ourselves living in Metropotamia.

"But the Ordinance of 1787 specified that no more than five or less than three states would be created. Everyone seemed to live with the idea that the boundary between Ohio and Michigan would be the line due east from the southern tip of Lake Michigan.

"The canal was built as the Wabash and Erie Canal in the 1830s. Then when Ohio also decided to dig a canal from Dayton to join the Miami Canal in southern Ohio with the Wabash and Erie, the state of Ohio then changed the name of the canal from Cincinnati and Toledo to the Miami and Erie.

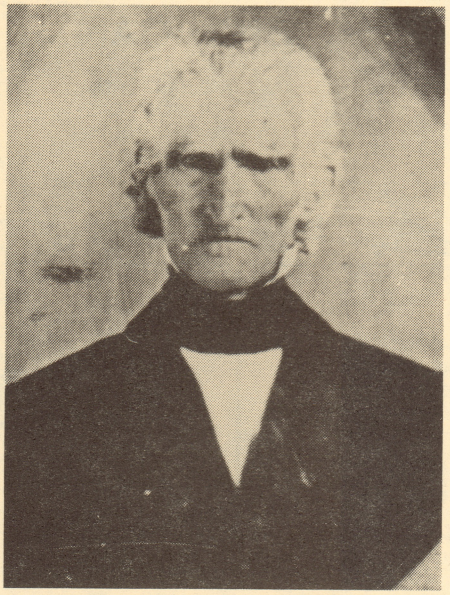


Photo courtesy of Fred Folger

Robert Lucas, Ohio governor, 1832-36.

"You might say why didn't Ohio ever push the fact that when they found the southern tip of Lake Michigan was farther south than determined earlier why didn't Ohio make a claim?

"Actually, they did. When they wrote the first constitution for Ohio in 1802 they put in there a description that the northern border of Ohio would be from the southern tip of Lake Michigan--only they changed it slightly--*to the north cape of Maumee Bay.*

"That meant sliding the line up slightly, about eight miles. The reason no one in the Toledo area or Maumee Valley ever disputed this was very simply because south of the Maumee River was a huge natural barrier called the Black Swamp.

"That swamp was forty miles across and about one hundred miles long, stretching all the way from Lake Erie into present day Indiana.

"That swamp was a tremendous barrier to early settlement and as a result we have no settlement in northwest Ohio until after the War of 1812. Furthermore they had little interest in Chillicothe and Columbus in pressing the claim.

"No effort was really made to pursue Ohio's claim until the coming of the canal. Then it was going to mean money and profit depending on where it would end along the Maumee River. Obviously, Ohio was not going to dig a canal right up to the Michigan line."

A line drawing showed the Harris Line, the state line today, and the Fulton line which pursues Michigan's claim. Out west of Toledo and north of the airport is a road today called Old State Line Road.

"Then here comes the canal and is it going to end at Maumee? Beginning at Maumee the river deepens. Possibly they figured it could but then there was a problem.

"Two miles down river from Maumee and Perrysburg is a solid rock ledge that goes all the way across under the river. At times of low water it is only about six and a half feet deep.

"Some said we can put a dam across the river and a system of locks. For the state of Ohio that would have been a huge expense. Down here they thought why should Ohio spend all that money on a dam when you have Toledo right here.

"All you have to do is make good that boundary line claim in the state constitution.

"Along the way a number of surveys were made. Earlier, Michigan Territorial Governor, Lewis Cass, asked for a survey. Congress directed Edward Tiffin, surveyor general of the US and a former governor of Ohio, to have a new survey run to determine the line between Michigan and Ohio.

"William Harris who did this survey used the line set forth in the 1802 Ohio constitution. The people of Michigan were not happy with the survey and appealed to President Monroe to do something about it.

"President Monroe ordered a new survey. This time John Fulton ran the line in accordance with the Ordinance of 1787 and went due east.

"The Michigan Territorial Governor went ahead and created Port Lawrence Township in 1827.

"By 1832 Michigan was eager to become a state. A territory had to have 60,000 population to qualify and Michigan was ready. But Congress refused because of the unresolved border dispute.

"Then Congress called for a third survey of the Ordinance line. Andrew Talcott was in charge and he sent two young army engineers, Washington Hood and Robert E. Lee (later Confederate Civil War General). "I know a lady who got a copy of a letter Lee sent home during the time of making this survey.

"He found the Toledo area very inhospitable in terms of insects and sickness. It was such a swampy, disgusting area that he spent as much time as possible on the ship they had traveled west on to avoid the insects and possible sickness. The ship was at anchor at Turtle Island."

Mr. Folger showed some early maps of Michigan which mangled the lower peninsula. Congress used one that put the south tip of Lake Michigan farther north than it really was when it accepted the state line. One frustrated cartographer identified the town as Port Lawrence or Toledo.

WASHINGTON IRVING INSPIRES CITY NAME

"The two villages of Port Lawrence and Vistula, even though they were rivals, united their effort to get a canal to their town but neither one wanted the other's name. They decided to go for a name no other town in America had.

"At that time the most widely read author in America was Washington Irving. He had gone to Spain to research a biography of Christopher Columbus. He liked Spain, spent a great deal of time there and was named American minister to Spain.

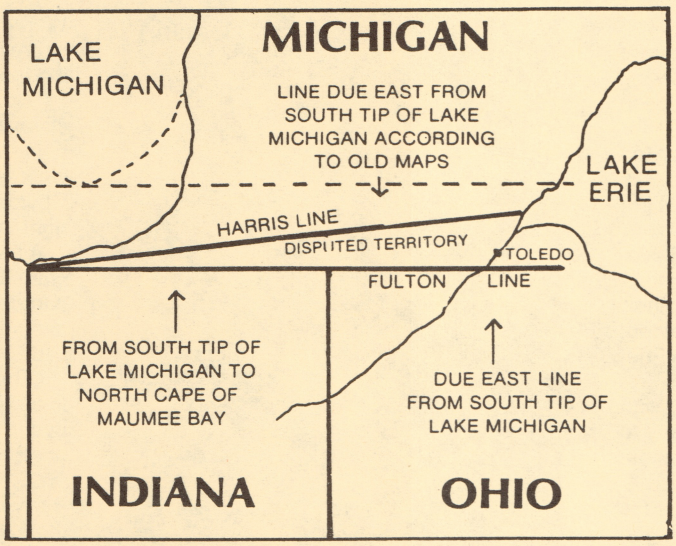
"Irving published *Tales of the Alhambra.* In that book it tells about the old historic city of Toledo, the name they chose." [*Editor's note: A 1994 Rand McNally Atlas lists Toledos in Illinois, Iowa, Washington and Oregon besides Ohio, Spain and Brazil.*]

"On another poor map, he commented, "If Ohio had ever really pressed the boundary shown here you'd end up with Monroe being in Ohio too.

"You might ask what happened with Indiana. They felt like they were being cheated of Lake Michigan shoreline so they were able to get a concession to boost the state line about ten miles north."

He called attention to the angling Harris line which is the Ohio-Michigan state line of today. There were 468 square miles in the disputed area which Michigan lost. It would angle from about five miles on the west to eight miles at the easternmost point.

"Ohio disputed the Fulton (southern) line and Michigan disputed the angling Harris line. Michigan law and authority had been exercised during the first years of settlement and no one ever questioned it. The disputed area should be Michigan's by all practical reason.



"There are many Ohioans today who claim that Columbus seems to be unaware of northwest Ohio. We have had editorials to the effect that we might have fared better with Lansing nowadays than we fare with Columbus because their feeling is that Ohio and Columbus are mostly concerned with the three 'C's cities--Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati so the rest of Ohio is what you call 'the other Ohio.'

"There could be some evidence given that northwestern Ohio is somewhat neglected. In all the years that Ohio has been a state we have had only one governor from northwest Ohio.

"The United States Post Office Department recognized the disputed area as Michigan. He showed slides of letters addressed to Port Lawrence, M.T. (Michigan Territory).

"Governor Lucas championed Ohio's causes. When Ohio had called for a new survey he accompanied the line runners, as they called them, up to Perrysburg. Then the fearless governor went no further. Perrysburg was safely across a wide portion of the Maumee River and definitely in Ohio.

"The Perrysburg people were all excited. No governor had ever come there before. When they saw a stranger coming they started ringing their only bell, firing off guns and cheering. They did that twice but neither person was the governor.

"Then they said we had better send out a search party. Being that the governor has to cross the Black Swamp maybe he's lost. They did find him.

"Then we have the youthful Michigan Governor Mason. As early as 1835 and even before he was ready to seek an enabling act. His idea was that once Michigan became a state we could press our claim in the Supreme Court in Washington and we'd have a legal means to try and solve it.

"But Ohio, being a state, had more political clout than a territory and when Congress informed Michigan that they would not consider statehood until the boundary dispute was resolved, that destroyed all such hopes.

"In 1835 the Ohio General Assembly extended jurisdiction over the disputed area. When Governor Mason heard that he had the Michigan lawmakers pass the Pains and Penalties Act.

"It had a very forbidding name and that of course was exactly what they wanted. It said anyone found enforcing Ohio authority or law in the disputed area would be subject to fines and/or imprisonment.

"The Ohio legislature called for running the line once again and on April 1-3 the commissioners who were going to do the survey arrive in Perrysburg and they called out the militia in case of trouble.

"On March 24, President Jackson named a commission to try to arbitrate the dispute. They arrived in Toledo on April 3. Two days before, Michigan had held an election of township officials in Port Lawrence Township. On April 6 Ohio also held an election there. It was quite confusing.

"On April 25, Michigan brought 200-300 horsemen with guns and bayonets into Toledo. Meanwhile, the line runners were out in the wilderness trying to run the line to satisfy Ohio.

"Meanwhile, Michigan was also trying to win favor with President Jackson and his administration. They created new counties, naming them for the president (Jackson), vice-president (Calhoun), secretary of state (Livingston), secretary of war (Eaton), and Ingham, Barry and Branch, also for members of Jackson's cabinet.

"It didn't help much. The whole thing boiled down to three Ohio electoral votes in the upcoming presidential election in 1836. Jackson was winding up his second term in office and he wanted his hand-picked candidate, his vice-president in his second term, Martin Van Buren to succeed him. He wanted Van Buren to get every possible vote he could.

"Now, down in Fulton County, Ohio, a short distance south of the present state line, in a country cemetery is a monument to Eli Philips, first settler in Fulton County. He had a cabin and a little farm at what was called Philips's Corners.

"That is where the posse from Lenawee County encountered the line runners. Some of the fearless Ohio militia immediately ran all the way back to Perrysburg leaving those left behind to take cover in the Philips's cabin.

"They had a big shoot-out and made a lot of noise with the posse from Tecumseh. Finally, they thought they had their chance and ran for it. They were ambushed and captured. No one was hurt. They were taken to jail in Tecumseh.

"If they posted bail and promised to come back and appear in court they were let out.

One man who couldn't post bail was held in jail. So that was one of the other exciting moments in this border dispute.

"A few years ago a church in Lyons, Ohio, just west of Toledo, decided they should mark the spot of the Battle of Philips' Corners so this is duly marked along the highway coming down from Michigan.

"Next, Two Stickney was creating quite a bit of rabble rousing in Toledo. The authorities in Monroe decided he could be arrested because he was breaking the Pains and Penalties Act and he was urging Ohio authorities 'Let's go get 'em.'

"When they attempted to arrest him, he pulled a knife and stabbed a deputy sheriff and then ran. The Michigan authorities immediately took Benjamin Stickney and several others prisoner. Old Ben proved very difficult.

"He was put on a horse and as they started off to Monroe to put him in jail, he kept deliberately falling off the horse. Finally, they bound his ankles together under the horse and warned him that if he attempted to fall again he would make the remainder of the trip in whatever position he happened to be in. So he cooled his heels in jail in Monroe.

"An interesting sidelight is that when Ben died he had a brief will which is in the courthouse in Toledo. He denounced One, Two and Mary and said that those children had all been very mean to him in his lifetime and they were to get nothing. He left everything to daughter, Indiana.

"Next, they got up a larger force in Monroe and came down to try to arrest Two Stickney. About 200 people came charging into Toledo and there were about 40-50 Toledoans. Two and the others all fled across the river. Some were said to have gotten on logs and paddled as fast as they could.

"Two then headed for the interior of Ohio where he remained as he said, 'in exile.' This all took place on July 16 in the middle of that hot summer of 1836 in the disputed strip. An unhappy Two was cooling his heels in Lower Sandusky (today Fremont, Ohio).

The poster that Michigan Governor Mason had issued said: PROCLAMATION: Whereas I have been notified by proper authorities of the County of Monroe that in the execution of

STATE LINE SPLITS SOME HOMES DOWN MIDDLE

"In some cases the state line runs through houses, Fred Folger said.

"In that case, the state in which your bedroom is located determines your legal residence, he was told, because they figure you spend more time there than elsewhere.

process issued from the court of said county, Joseph Wood, a deputy sheriff of the same has been forcibly resisted with arms and dangerously, if not mortally, wounded by a person by the name of Two Stickney at the village of Toledo in the County of Monroe...now I do hereby offer a reward of $500 for the apprehension and delivery of the aforesaid Stickney to sheriff of the County of Monroe."

"After several months had passed Two writes to Governor Lucas:

Dear Sir, I look to you for advice. I therefore ask you to indulge my intrusion upon your excellency's attention (This is a very self-serving letter. He is doing everything he can to flatter the governor) which I doubt is not fully occupied at this critical juncture.

Your age and experience in the vicissitudes of life I presume has afforded your excellency ample opportunity to sympathize or, at least, bear with my impatience. Our situation appears bordering on desperation.

By your advice I have remained absent from my home and my business until I am reduced mainly to the extremities of my means which were quite limited at the commencement of my exile but be assured my pecuniary means and my life is devoted to the cause of principle."

"It goes on but is hard to read. He wants to know when they will set aside the order for his arrest.

"In the summer of 1836, the State of Ohio decided to create a new county in the disputed area whether Michigan liked it or not. They even ignored Congress at this point. They named the county for Governor Lucas.

"They specified that for Lucas County to be an official legal entity, the court of common pleas be ordered to hold a session on the first Monday of September--September 7.

"Governor Mason found out about this and vowed no Ohioans would hold any court session in Toledo September 7. Once again out came the militia. They went down to just north of the Harris line and camped on a farm just south of Erie, Michigan, September 6. They planned to arrive in Toledo at dawn and patrol the streets.

"Governor Lucas heard that the Michigan militia was called out. He did not want blood shed so Lucas County came into effect in probably one of the strangest ways any county ever did.

"The State of Ohio had already appointed most of the officials. They needed only to appoint a clerk of courts. Governor Lucas instructed these men, called the midnight judges, to go to Maumee City and then after midnight set out for Toledo by horseback.

"They arrived in Toledo a little after 2 a.m. They went to the local one-room school. They used the teacher's desk for the judges' bench. They held a 15 minute session in which they appointed Dr. Horatio Conant clerk of courts. After the clerk wrote out the minutes, they all signed them.

"He tucked the minutes into the band of his top hat.

"Then one of the men said we don't have any witnesses to say we've been here and done this in Toledo. Let's go over to the local tavern and sign the guest register. While we're there we might as well celebrate the new county.

"They had some drinks. Then someone played a joke on them--someone came to the door and said 'the Wolverines are coming.'

"So those fearless county officials all ran for their horses and beat it out of town. In doing so Dr. Conant's hat fell off with the precious minutes.

"They had to send two guards back through the night to find them. They did and all the men arrived back in Maumee by daybreak. That is how Lucas County was literally sneaked into existence.

"Old postal covers (mail) reflect the confusion of the time. One from Detroit to Sanford L. Collins, postmaster of Tremainsville, a little village on Detroit Avenue (Dixie Highway), was addressed to 'Tremainsville, Lucas or Monroe County, Ohio or Michigan. Another from Monroe, Michigan Territory, to Collins, 'Tremainsville, State of Uncertainty.'

"In the year that Congress finally decided in favor of Ohio came a form from the U.S. Post Office Department to the 'Postmaster, Tremainsville, Monroe County, Michigan.'

"Another letter of June 5,1837 from the department came to the same address after Michigan had been admitted to the union and Toledo has been incorporated by the state of Ohio.

"Sir, on a letter received by this department it appears that you locate your office in Ohio. On the books of this department it is located in Monroe County, Michigan. Please inform if it be in Ohio in order that it be so noted."

"Congress felt it could compensate Michigan for loss of the disputed strip with the northern peninsula. Back in 1836 the people of Michigan viewed the northern peninsula as almost uninhabitable and far away.

"But I think as time went by the people of Michigan came to appreciate the bargain that they got.

"On the farm south of Erie an official marker is placed, noting that there is where the militia .camped on the eve of going into Toledo.

"In September, 1836, Michigan had held a convention in Ann Arbor to see if they could

MICHIGAN LOST TOLEDO WAR BUT GAINED TWO PENINSULAS

"I have to tell you that by accepting the Harris line Michigan gained not only the northern peninsula but another peninsula known as the 'Lost Peninsula.'

"When the Harris line extended across the north cape of Maumee Bay we have a little tip of a peninsula formed by the Ottawa River and Maumee Bay that is part of Michigan.

"Some people live out there. Even though they are attached to Toledo and the State of Ohio their electricity comes from Michigan Consumer's Power by underground cable under the Ottawa River.

"Until only about 15 years ago to call Toledo was long distance. They can now qualify for a Toledo phone number.

"Fire service has to come from over the state line. Fire equipment has to come through Lucas County, across the Ottawa River and drive through Toledo to reach a fire. Police protection is provided by the Michigan State Police, Erie Post.

"Children out there have to attend Erie Township, Michigan Schools. School buses have to come through two Ohio School Districts to get them.

"There have been some efforts to buy the Lost Peninsula from Michigan but as a matter of pride, Michigan isn't about to sell.

"There's a very popular restaurant out there--the state line runs through the parking lot. It used to be called Weber's Glassless Tavern because boaters would dock and get their drinks in paper cups.

"The reason it was so popular was that you couldn't buy alcoholic beverages in Ohio on Sunday so all along the state line at major roads you had beer carry out places.

"On Palm Sunday 1965 a devastating tornado came through, almost following the state line. The population is coming back now.

"They wanted to build a number of condos and a boat marina out there but they have to rely on Edgewater Drive, a narrow two lane highway, for access.

"Also they apparently have Toledo water and sewage service and the sewer line along Edgewater Drive would never handle that huge development, so it fell through.

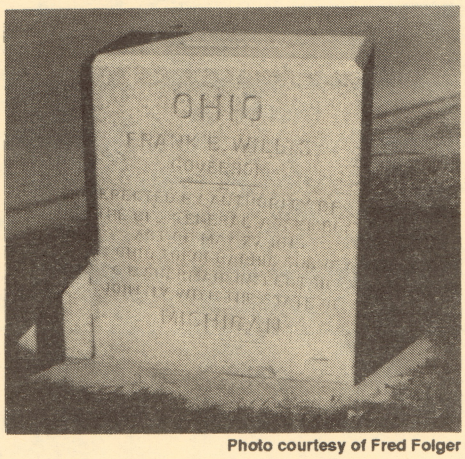


Photo courtesy of Fred Folger

Stone marking 1915 survey of Michigan-Ohio boundary. It is located on Edgewater Drive on the Lost Peninsula.

'GOOD FENCES MAKE GOOD NEIGHBORS'

In 1915 an unpressured survey of the Ohio-Michigan state line was run for property tax purposes. Stone monuments were placed on the line on all major roads including the 'Lost Peninsula.' A crevice on top is the actual line.

"In 1965, the 50th anniversary of the 1915 survey, Governor Romney of Michigan and Governor Rhodes of Ohio had their representatives meet at the monument on the 'Lost Peninsula' and dedicated an anniversary plaque of the monumenting of the boundary line of these two great states of the union.

"The plaque bears the inscription 'Good Fences Make Good Neighbors.'

..SHOULD HAVE BEEN TOLEDO, MICHIGAN

convention in Ann Arbor to see if they could agree and accept the offer made by Congress, June 15, to admit Michigan if they would surrender the disputed strip and accept the northern peninsula.

"The convention voted 28 against, 21 in favor. It became political. The Democrats tended to support Congress' offer, the Whigs opposed it.

"Then Michigan had another thing to be concerned about. The U.S. government had an unusual problem, one they don't have now. They had a surplus of money from the sale of public land.

"President Jackson and Congress had decided that the surplus would be divided up among the states. Now, if Michigan quickly became a state they could qualify for a share. Get the idea? There's money to be had.

"It was a futile effort but Governor Mason ordered another survey to confirm the old Fulton line.

"In October a group of politicians got together and decided let's try it again. So they held another convention in Ann Arbor in December, known as the Frost-bitten Convention.

"They had two days of debate. Finally, the prevailing feeling was let's accept the offer from Congress, let's become a state, then we can pursue our claim through legal channels.

"They accepted Congress' offer of June 15 and, on January 6, 1837, the U.S. Senate voted to admit Michigan to the union. On January 7, the Ohio Legislature incorporated Toledo as an Ohio city.

AROUND THE COUNTY

Salem Historical Society: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20,1997 at Salem Township Hall. Don Peterson, coffeemaker authority, speaker, "Let's Talk About It Over Coffee." Display of coffeemakers.

Holiday gathering 1-4 p.m. Sunday, December 14, South Salem Stone School, North Territorial and Curtis Roads.

Saline Society: Schools Heritage Exhibit featured at Depot Museum for coming year. Museum open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays or by appointment. Call 429-9621.

Meeting 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 19, at Depot. Jim Cameron, 1997-98 president of Michigan History Teachers, will introduce Hugh Gurney, executive director of the Historical Society of Michigan.

Annual antiques show planned Friday and Saturday, January 16-17,1998.

Webster Society: 7:45 p.m. Monday Dec. 8, at 5922 Webster Church Road, home of Paul and Liz Kleinschmidt. Those attending asked to bring a favorite Christmas snack, dessert or cookies to share.

ARTIFACTS TO DONATE?

Anyone wishing to donate an artifact to WCHS may contact Judy Chrisman, collections chair, at 769-7859 or by mail, 1809 Dexter Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

This issue of the *Washtenaw Impressions* is co-sponsored by:
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WEST SIDE METHODIST 150 YEARS OLD IN 1997

West Side United Methodist Church in Ann Arbor started out 150 years ago as the First German Episcopal Methodist Society.

WCHS President Susan Wineberg presented an anniversary certificate in honor of the sesquicentennial at the October meeting. Duane M. Kirking, chair of the church's 150th Coordinating Committee, accepted.

Johann H. Seddlemeyer, a German-speaking Methodist minister, was appointed to establish a mission in Ann Arbor on September 4,1846. As a result the German Methodist Society was incorporated May 8,1847. Daniel F. Allmendinger filed the papers.

Their first church was built that year at the northwest corner of Liberty and Division Streets. In 1896 they built a church at the corner of West Jefferson and Fourth Streets. They sold that church, outgrown after World War II, to the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in 1952 and built anew at 900 South Seventh Street.

It became West Side Methodist in 1919, dropping German from the name.

OOPS

In the picture on the back page of the October 1997 Impressions the man identified as Jack Myers, Chelsea Village manager, was really Richard Steele, Village president, a reader informs us. Sorry about that.

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WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Post Office Box 3336
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106-3336

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

'PRESERVING PHOTOS'

2 p.m. Sunday November 16, 1997

WALDEN HILLS EVENTS BUILDING

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Ann Arbor, Michigan

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WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Post Office Box 3336 Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106-3336 313-663-2379

The Washtenaw County Historical Society has again been invited to take part in History **Lane** at Briarwood Mall for the 1997 Holiday Season from Friday, November 21 through Sunday, December 28, 1997.

Last year **History Lane** was very popular and well-received by shoppers at the Mall. Our Society shared **History Lane** with the Ypsilanti Historical Society; **History Lane** was staffed in the evening hours and on the weekend. This year we plan to have **History Lane** staffed from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sundays.

On the reverse side of this sheet is a schedule. We ask volunteers to overlap stints by a half hour so the outgoing volunteer can instruct incoming volunteers. The Ypsilanti Historical Society will also have staff during these hours and, also, the *Ann Arbor News* plans to staff part of the time to sell subscriptions to their newspaper and will offer a $15 coupon to those purchasing a 3-month subscription. The coupon may be used to purchase items at **History Lane**.

Please indicate your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice of time you would like to staff **History Lane** for our Society. Make a game of it and invite a friend/spouse to join you. Please fold and tape closed this sheet and include your telephone number. For more information, please call: Pauline Walters, 313-663-2379. Thank you.

HISTORY LANE at BRIARWOOD MALL

Washtenaw County Historical Society
and the
Ypsilanti Historical Society
along with the
Ann Arbor News
will staff **History Lane** from
Friday, November 21 through Sunday, December 28, 1997
10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Weekdays & 10 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sundays

From:

Place
32 cent
stamp

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Post Office Box 3336
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106-3336

VOLUNTEER SHEET: I (we) will volunteer to staff HISTORY LANE at Briarwood on the following day(s)

** PLEASE NOTE SHIFT OF STARTING TIMES **

	10:00 am to 2:00 pm		1:30 pm to 6:00 pm		5:30 pm to 9:00 pm
Fri Nov 28	**CLOSED**		**CLOSED**		===== filled =====
Sat Nov 22	===== filled =====		===== filled =====		===== filled =====
Sun Nov23	***10 to 2:30 or 2 to 6***				
Mon Nov 24					
Tue Nov 25					
Wed Nov 26					
Thanksgiving	**CLOSED**		**CLOSED**		**CLOSED**
Fri Nov 28					
Sat Nov 29					
Sun Nov 30	***10 to 2:30 or 2 to 6***				===== filled =====
Mon Dec 1					
Tue Dec 2					
Wed Dec 3					
Thur Dec 4			===== filled =====		
Fri Dec 5					
Sat Dec 6					
Sun Dec 7	***10 to 2:30 or 2 to 6***				
Mon Dec 8					
Tue Dec 9	===== filled =====				
Wed Dec 10					
Thur Dec 11					
Fri Dec 12					
Sat Dec 13			===== filled =====		
Sun Dec 14	***10 to 2:30 or 2 to 6***				
Mon Dec 15					
Tue Dec 16	===== filled =====				
Wed Dec 17					
Thur Dec 18					
Fri Dec 19					
Sat Dec 20					
Sun Dec 21	***10 to 2:30 or 2 to 6***				
Mon Dec 22	===== filled =====				
Tue Dec 23	===== filled =====				
Wed Dec 24	===== filled =====		===== filled =====		**CLOSED**
Christmas	**CLOSED**		**CLOSED**		**CLOSED**
Fri Dec 26					
Sat Dec 27					
Sun Dec 28	***10 to 2:30 or 2 to 6***				

NAME: _____

TELEPHONE: _____